

REMARKS

Claims 1-6 are pending. Reconsideration and allowance of the present application based on the following remarks are respectfully requested.

The Title

The Examiner directed the Applicants to supply a more descriptive title. Applicants respectfully submit that the amended title is sufficiently descriptive.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

A. Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over Lavoie et al. (U.S. 2002/0143781). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claim 1 recites, in part, a method for “transmitting state information in a **client-server based** networked virtual environment ... comprising the steps of: measuring distance between a shared object and client avatars corresponding to the client computers in the **client-server based** networked virtual environment; and adjusting transmission rates of state renewal information from the **server computer** to the client computers according to the measured distances.” (emphasis added).

Lavoie, on the other hand, discloses a distributed networking environment, with no server. See paragraphs [0062] (“the invention does not require a server such as server 103”) and [0081] (“the present invention dispenses with said server”). As a result, Lavoie fails to disclose or suggest either element of claim 1. The Applicants further point out that more recent developments in massively multiplayer online games (MMOG) have vindicated the view that a client-server based architecture is the only practical architecture for a MMOG. A distributed MMOG is too susceptible to cheating.

B. Claims 5 and 6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over Lavoie et al. (U.S. 2002/0143781). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claim 5 recites, in part, a method for transmitting state information in a client-server based networked virtual environment comprising the steps of, in relevant part “checking whether a shared object varies in its state.”

Lavoie only discloses calculating an extrapolation error, without first checking whether an object has varied in its state. See paragraph [0090] and Fig. 12. The present invention avoids the computationally costly mathematical operations necessary to calculate an extrapolation error in the instances where an object has not varied in its state. This is a substantial advantage of the present invention over Lavoie.

Claim 6 is believed to be allowable for at least the reasons presented above with respect to claim 5 by virtue of its dependence on claim 5.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants Appreciate the Examiner's indication that claims 2-4 contain allowable subject matter. However, in view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that all of the claims (claims 1-6) are in condition for allowance.

Conclusion

Therefore, all objections and rejections having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in a condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Should any issues remain unresolved, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney for Applicants at the telephone number indicated below in order to expeditiously resolve any remaining issues.

Respectfully submitted,

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